

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that no adequate reasons and/or examples have been provided to support a conclusion of patentable distinctness between the identified groups or shown that a burden exists in searching all the claims.

In regard to Groups I and II, the Office has characterized the relationship between these two groups as product and process of use. Citing MPEP §806.05(h), the Office concludes that the product as claimed “in the invention of group I can be used in a process of planarizing metallurgical samples for microscopic measurements to characterize grain structures within a specimen”. However, the Office has not provided reasons and/or examples to support this conclusion. Further, the Office has failed to show that the proposed use of the claimed aqueous dispersion is materially different from the claimed use. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain the Restriction Requirement. Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

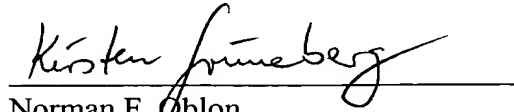
Further, Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that the Office has not shown that a burden exist in searching all of the claims. Applicants respectfully point out that thousands of U.S. patents have issued in which many more than two subclasses are searched, and the Office cannot reasonably assert that a burden exists in searching only two subclasses.

Accordingly, and for the reasons presented above, Applicants submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain the Restriction Requirement. Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in  
condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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